



1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were grieved to learn of the death of Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott on December 31, 2004; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Monsignor McDermott was born on July 31, 1909, on Chicago's South Side to Michael J. and Ellen "Nellie" McDermott; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Monsignor McDermott, known as "Father Mac", was ordained in 1936 after studying at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and Mundelein's St. Mary of the Lake Seminary; and

9

10

11

WHEREAS, While studying for the priesthood in 1930, Father Mac worked at Arlington Park racetrack and began ministering to the homeless and alcoholics who populated the area along his commute known as "Skid Row"; and

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, After ordination, his assignment until June 1941 was to staff a home for dependent children at Maryville Academy, where he first realized that alcoholism was not only an illness but an inherited tendency; and

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, He worked as assistant pastor of Our Lady of Peace from 1941 to 1946 in the then affluent South Shore neighborhood; in 1946 he was named assistant director of the Chicago Archdiocese's Catholic Charities, where he was executive director of the Catholic Dependent Child Commission, and simultaneously he was director of Holy Cross Mission, an agency administering to the corporal and spiritual needs of Skid Row inhabitants; and

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

WHEREAS, After working a full career both as a parish priest and as an administrator in the Chicago Archdiocese, Father Mac, at age 65, co-founded Haymarket Center, the Near

28

29

1 West Side facility which has helped thousands of people, men  
2 and women, to recovery and rehabilitation from alcohol and  
3 substance abuse; and

4 WHEREAS, Haymarket is a full-scale substance abuse  
5 treatment center which administers 28 programs that provide a  
6 comprehensive approach to substance abuse known as a continuum  
7 of care; serving over 14,000 individuals each year, Haymarket  
8 Center is one of the largest providers of rehabilitation  
9 education for Illinoisans dealing with substance abuse; and

10 WHEREAS, The McDermott Foundation was formed in June 1963  
11 with the fusion of the Catholic Dependent Child Commission; and

12 WHEREAS, The passing of Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott has  
13 been deeply felt by many, especially his niece, Helen (P.J.)  
14 Sheehan; his nephews, the Honorable James (Jeri) Stack, Jim  
15 (Sis) and Frank (Judith Ann) McDermott, William (Mary Jane)  
16 McDermott, and John (Dorothy) McDermott; his many great-nieces  
17 and great-nephews; and his dear friend, Mary Stack; therefore,  
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
21 Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott along with all who knew and  
22 loved him; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
24 presented to the McDermott Foundation, Haymarket Center, and  
25 his family as a token of our deepest sympathy.